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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, the texts of a statement (see annex I) issued by the Government of Ghana and messages (see annexes II and III) sent by His Excellency, President Jerry John Rawlings, to the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Mr. Yasser Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, on the recent PLO-Israel agreement.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi N. AWOONOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Statement issued on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Ghana on the agreement signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel

1. The Government of Ghana welcomes the historic agreement of mutual recognition just signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Government of Israel. The Government of Ghana also expresses its satisfaction with the Declaration of Principles agreed on between the PLO and Israel which provides for Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

2. The PLO leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, and the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, deserve the wholehearted congratulations of all peace-loving people. It is their courage, foresight, determination and outstanding statesmanship that have made this important breakthrough possible.

3. These agreements remove a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It is the beginning of the end of decades of war, mistrust, violence, destruction, wanton killing and suffering that the Arab-Israeli conflict has brought to the people of the Middle East.

4. For many years now, Ghana, along with the international community, has called for recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and for the Palestinian people to have a homeland of their own.

5. The Government of Ghana urges the international community as a whole to support these two agreements, which together constitute a solid foundation for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. In this regard, the Government of Ghana welcomes indications on the part of the major donor countries and multilateral institutions that they will extend economic assistance to the Gaza and Jericho areas which are to come immediately under Palestinian autonomy.

6. It is the sincere hope and expectation of the Government of Ghana that the spirit and letter of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) will be fully implemented by the end of the five-year autonomy plan.

7. In the light of the changed circumstances in the Middle East, the Government of Ghana believes that it is now opportune to review the 1973 decision of the Organization of African Unity, which led to the severance of relations with Israel by member States of the Organization. Accordingly, the Government of Ghana will take steps in that direction.

ANNEX II

Letter dated 13 September 1993 from the President of Ghana to the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization

1. On the momentous occasion of the signing of the agreement between the PLO and the Government of Israel on autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, I have the pleasure of extending to you and the other members of your team on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana and in my own name, sincere felicitations and best wishes.

2. The road to final peace in Palestine and the Middle East as a whole will no doubt continue to be fraught with danger, but I am confident that the courage, wisdom and statesmanship with which you have led the Palestinian people up to this historic stage in their struggle for national independence will continue to guide and inspire you in overcoming the challenges and obstacles ahead.

3. I wish for my part to assure you of the continued support of the people and Government of Ghana to the aspirations of the people of Palestine and the PLO.

4. We will continue to follow with keen interest and understanding the new era of reconstruction, peace and prosperity which is dawning in a region that has seen so much violence and human suffering.

ANNEX III

Letter dated 14 September 1993 from the President of Ghana to the Prime Minister of Israel

1. On the occasion of the signing of the agreement with the PLO on autonomy for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, I have great pleasure, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana and in my own name, to extend heartfelt congratulations to you on your exceptional courage and statesmanship in bringing about this historic achievement.

2. We in Ghana are fully aware that so many decades of mistrust, violence and destruction cannot be dissipated overnight. However, we are confident that the courageous leadership that you have manifested in taking this momentous step on the road to peace will eventually unite the people of Israel behind you in seeking justice for the Palestinians and a lasting peace in the Middle East through the faithful implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

3. I am confident that the new era of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East opens the way for our two Governments and peoples to revive, in the near future, our traditional friendship and cooperation to our mutual benefit.

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